

I. Two Principle Points

- A. the Bible is not a “book”—it is a *library* of *inspired* texts
- B. the Bible is “about” *salvation*

Since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching firmly, faithfully, and without error that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation. (Dei Verbum, Par. 3)

II. The History of Israel is Salvation History

- A. In the Beginning... - establishing a salvific worldview
 - 1. creation itself is salvific (Genesis 1-2)
 - 2. human disobedience and God’s (complex) mercy (Genesis 3—11)
 - 3. the founding of a people based on divine election (Pentateuch: Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, Deut)
- B. a people living in covenant with God—from freedom to slavery
 - 1. independent self-rule (11th—8th c. B.C.)
 - a. tribal alliances (Joshua, Judges, Ruth)
 - b. monarchy (Samuel, Kings, Chronicles)
 - c. spiritual themes concerning independence and power
 - d. warnings from prophetic voices (e.g., Amos, Hosea, Isaiah)
 - 2. threat and conquest from outside forces (8th—7th c. B.C.—Assyrian Empire)
 - a. why is this happening to us?
 - b. what can we do?
 - c. Kings, Chronicles, Isaiah, Zephaniah, Nahum
 - 3. threat and conquest from outside forces (6th c. B.C.—Babylonian Empire)
 - a. why is this happening to us?
 - b. what can we do?
 - c. living in exile
 - d. Jeremiah, Ezekial, Habakkuk, sections of Isaiah
- C. restoration and new beginning—from slavery to freedom (to slavery again...)
 - 1. return from exile and “Second Temple” era (6th—4th c. B.C.)
 - a. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah
 - b. many “wisdom” writings: Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, psalms
 - 2. slide into Greek rule (4th—1st c. B.C.)
 - a. Hellenistic persecutions and desecration of Israelite religion
 - b. Ecclesiasticus, Daniel, Maccabees
- D. Coming of the Savior—“salvation history” IS the “paschal mystery”
 - 1. gospels
 - 2. letters (Paul, James, John, Peter, Jude)
 - 3. Hebrews, Revelation

III. Why the Bible Matters

- A. gives context to all of our liturgy and sacraments
- B. gives context to our own spiritual journeys
- C. rich school for prayer

The “Fall” of Adam and Eve (and the roots of “original sin”)

(Genesis 2) 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

(Genesis 3) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Do you have a favorite book or passage in the Bible? Why?

Why do you desire to learn more about the Bible? What do you hope to receive from the “Networking Bible Study”?